

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification (~~striketrough~~ and double brackets ([[]]) indicating deletion and underline indicating insertion) as follows:

[0030] Preferably, the linking or associating or otherwise relating the sound file to an emoticon contained the message is accomplished by the sender or at the sender's electronic device. However, it may be preferable in certain circumstances to effect this linking at the network server, rather than at the user device. This might be particularly advantageous where the end user is a subscriber to a service, such as a cellular telephone service subscriber and his or her user preferences can be, and typically are, stored on a central system, rather than being stored on the cellular telephone itself. FIG. 4 shows, in schematic manner, one way of practicing the present invention in which this linking or associating step is carried out at the network server. As depicted in FIG. 4, a method 40 according to the present invention includes a first step 41 of generating a message, with the message including an emoticon. This message generation step 41 typically would be carried out in an end user or sender device. Next, in step 42 the message with the emoticon is forwarded from the sender to the network server. Upon receiving the message from the sender, the network server creates a link to the sound file in step 43, with the link associating a sound file with the particular message. Once the sound file has been linked to the message in step 43, in step 44 the message and the link are then forwarded from the network server to the recipient. Finally, in step 45 the recipient's device displays the message and plays the audio file using the link between the emoticon and the audio file. In embodiments of the present invention, the steps of this method may be executed by a computer program on a computer-readable medium.